

Message Text

SECRET

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TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 001426 TOSEC 250175

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO

SUBJECT: ANGOLA

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM SONNENFELDT

1. IN HIS DECEMBER 30 RESPONSE TO YOUR MESSAGE SCHMIDT ASKED AT THE END IF YOU HAD SENT AN ANALOGOUS MESSAGE TO OTHER EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS. AS I RECALL, ONLY GISCARD HAS HAD A FULL STATEMENT FROM YOU OF OUR CONCERNS. IN ANY EVENT, WITH SCHAUFLE GOING TO PARIS, LONDON AND BONN, YOU MIGHT LIKE, AS A MATTER OF COURTESY, TO SEND SCHMIDT A BRIEF BACKCHANNEL THANKING HIM FOR HIS DECEMBER 30 MESSAGE AND INFORMING HIM THAT SCHAUFLE WILL BE VISITING THE THREE CAPITALS SHORTLY.

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2. I HAVE ASKED THAT TODAY'S PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON ANGOLA

BE SENT TO YOU IN FULL TEXT. THE MEDIA HERE ARE PLAYING UP THE PASSAGE CALLING FOR TERMINATION OF ALL FOREIGN INTERVENTION. THAT PASSAGE IS INDEED OF SOME INTEREST AND COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF A BREAK. AT THE SAME TIME, THERE IS CLEARLY SOME PRE-OAU SUMMIT MANEUVERING INVOLVED AND I THINK SOME ADDITIONAL TIME AND EVIDENCE, AS WELL AS DEVELOPMENTS ON THE GROUND, ARE GOING TO BE REQUIRED BEFORE ONE

CAN EVEN SURMISE THAT THE SOVIETS ARE LOOKING FOR A WAY TO DISENGAGE. MOREOVER, AS I LOOK OVER THE INTELLIGENCE BACKLOG OF THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, THE SIGNS ARE NOT TOO PROMISING, WHAT WITH THE AIRLIFT CONTINUING, THE NAVAL AND SUPPLY CONCENTRATIONS IN GUINEA, THE LONGER-RANGE CUBAN MILITARY DISPOSITIONS AND SOVIET DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS TO POUR COLD WATER ON THE IDEA OF A COALITION, AND TO ASSOCIATE US WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS. WE ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CONTINUE TO DO THE BEST WE CAN TO PROVIDE SUPPORT AGAINST MPLA ON THE GROUND AND, VIS-A-VIS SOVIETS, TO MAKE JUDICIOUS USE OF SUCH BROADER LEVERAGE AS WE HAVE TO RUN UP THE COSTS FOR THEM.

3. I HAVE APPROVED A BRIEF MESSAGE TO THE FIELD BY AF ANALYZING THE SOVIET POSTURE AND THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL AND PROVIDING INTERIM GUIDANCE. THIS IS ALSO BEING REPEATED TO YOU.

4. WARM REGARDS. SEE YOU MONDAY. INGERSOLL

SECRET

NNN

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